

## 4-5 ADA Keeping Baghdad Safe

By Sgt. Dan Purcell  
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq-If it takes a 24-hour operation, seven days a week, to keep a major boulevard in Baghdad safe and secure, then it takes an equally dedicated group of Soldiers to make it happen.

For many of the Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, running ight-hour patrols around the clock to keep the busy street open is what they do best.

"We have to keep the route open, but it's not simple to do," said Capt. Curran Chidester, commanding officer of Battery A, 4-5 ADA. "We have three batteries in our battalion that are pulling together to get this job done."

Extending from Baghdad International Airport to the International Zone in central Baghdad, this heavily trafficked thoroughfare is commonly known as Airport Boulevard by the local Iraqis.

Chidester said Battery A is responsible for approximately 12 kilometers of the highway and travels close to 200 kilometers a day.

"The hardest thing about doing the same thing day after day is how to avoid becoming complacent," he said.

Chidester's answer to avoiding complacency and



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While on patrol Soldiers of the 1st Patrol Team, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division help push a stalled car off the busy highway.

keeping his Soldiers alert is to mix up their routine.

"Our biggest job is to make sure that no cars remain parked along the road, so when we see one stopped we'll get out and investigate," he said. "If it's a maintenance problem, we'll help push them off the road so they can fix it or we'll help them change a flat tire or give them a tow if they need it. It also gives us a chance to meet and talk with the people."

In addition to helping people with broken-down vehicles Chidester's team is also responsible for setting up traffic control points on the side roads in order to look for individuals of interest or suspicious activ-

ity.

"Vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices are our biggest threat out here and that's why we have to keep the route clear," Chidester said.

Alpha Battery is no stranger to the inherent dangers of patrolling the roads of Iraq having already done some time on other routes around Baghdad before their battalion took responsibility of Airport Boulevard.

"The worst part is the unexpected...you can try to prevent problems as much as you can through training and equipment, but you can't prepare for the unexpected," Staff Sgt. Robert Gibson, Battery A, said.

"That's why I like to drive, because if something happens I feel like I'm in control."

Jokingly, the consensus amongst the Soldiers of Battery A is that they are like a motor club and despite the inherent dangers of their job, helping stranded drivers is just part of the job.

"The guys in my battery have been doing this for the last four months under a lot of different situations and have always acted like true professionals," Chidester said. "They are able to make the switch from your typical Soldier to being true ambassadors helping to bring our two peoples [Iraqis and Americans] together."

# FOB Name Changes Official Today

By Sgt. John Queen  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Name changes for forward operating bases and camps used by American forces in Baghdad will take effect Sept. 15.

Task force leaders have renamed all of the forward operating bases and camps in Baghdad.

Currently the bases are named after unit nicknames like Headhunter and Bulldog. Three are named in honor of fallen American

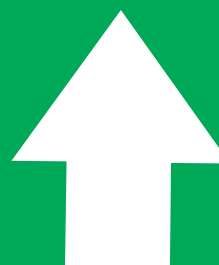
Soldiers from Operation Iraq Freedom I.

"We are guests here to support the people of Iraq with security and rebuilding," Maj. Gregory Mogavero, an information officer assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division headquar-

ters said. "These are not U.S. bases, the land belongs to the Iraqis and the legacy left by this operation should be one of Iraqi services and not U.S. spirit."

The signs will have the new names in both Arabic and English.

## NEW FOB NAMES



IRON HORSE BASE to AL WATANI/PATRIOT

EAGLE to AL-AMAL/HOPE

SOUTH VICTORY to AL-NASR/VICTORY

HIGHLANDER to AL-IZDEHAR/PROSPERITY

HEADHUNTER to AL-ISTIQUALAL/INDEPENDENCE

FERRIN-HUGGINS to AL-SAQR/FALCON

WARHORSE to AL-HURYA AL-AWAL/FREEDOM I

GREYWOLF to AL-TAWHEED AL-AWAL/UNION I

CUERVO to RUSTAMIYAH/ RUSTAMIYAH

NORTH VICTORY to AL-TAHREER/LIBERTY

BANZAI to AL-ADALA/JUSTICE

STEEL DRAGON to AL-SHARAF/HONOR

COOKE to TAJI/TAJI

GUNSLINGER to AL-TADAMUN/SOLIDARITY

OUTLAW to AL-HURYA AL-THANI/FREEDOM II

WARRIOR to AL-TAW HEED AL-THANI/UNIONII

TROJAN HORSE to AL-TAWHEED AL-THALITH/UNION III

## Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

**That's my last offer.  
hazaa aakhir kalaam**

### Wednesday

High: 98  
Low: 72



### Thursday

High: 98  
Low: 72



### Friday

High: 100  
Low: 74



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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## News Notes

### NY Girl Scouts Collect Donations

WATERTOWN, N.Y. (Watertown Daily Times) -- The Thousand Islands Girl Scout Council has joined with the United Way of Northern New York to collect donated school supplies for needy children throughout Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. Girl Scout troops in the three counties will be collecting school supply donations from businesses and individuals through October. The United Way has already been working with Northern Federal Credit Union to collect both school supplies and food donations.

### Inventor Shortage Holds Ark. Back

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Democrat-Gazette) -- Not many new ideas are coming out of Arkansas. Last year, the federal government issued just 222 new patents to Arkansans. That's eight new inventions for every 100,000 residents - tying Arkansas with Mississippi for the lowest rate in the nation and putting the state 75 percent below the national average. The scarcity of patents, economists say, reveals the poor condition of research and development in Arkansas. The Natural State consistently ranks toward the bottom nationally in the amount of research and development dollars spent per capita. "It's really one of the nagging problems of economic development in Arkansas," said Jeff Collins, director of the University of Arkansas' Center for Business.

## They Serve and Suffer Together

DE QUEEN, Ark. (Dallas Morning News) - The days are busy enough, filled with the demands of life. Children, work, clothes to wash, yards to mow and meals to cook. You have to stay busy.

Inevitably, though, the war comes back home to Arkansas. Snatches of a newscast about a mortar attack in Baghdad. Waiting for a phone call. The unexpected knock on the door. Or simply a glance at the clock that reminds you a loved one is nine hours and 7,000 miles away in a very dangerous place.

For the families of the 4,000 Arkansas National Guard troops drawn from across the state, the fighting in Iraq has its own reality. The Soldiers of the 39th Brigade ceased being civilians in October when the unit



Dallas Morning News

Bertha (left) and Ron Loyd's son Sgt. Ronnie Loyd is serving in Iraq with Sgt. Ricky Hendricks, the son of Mittie Hendricks (right) and the brother of Jarita Sobak.

was mobilized to active duty.

Sent to Iraq in April as part of the U.S. security and stabilization force, the brigade has been on the

receiving end of repeated insurgent mortar attacks, sniper fire and roadside explosions. It has recorded 13 fatalities and hundreds of combat injuries.

Like most Guard units, the 39th is one big family. It's made up of plumbers, cops, students, mechanics, teachers and truck drivers. Fathers and son are serving together. So are brothers, cousins and a host of lifelong friends and neighbors. Their departure leaves a big hole in towns across Arkansas.

Ron and Bertha Loyd of De Queen keep the cellphone on around the clock in case their son, Sgt. Ronnie Loyd, 27, calls.

"Sometimes as we talk, you can hear bombs exploding. Ronnie will say, 'It's just a mortar.' He has to live with that," Mr. Loyd said. "I guess we do, too."

## Ozark Railroad Conducts Terror Drill

MOUNTAINBURG, Ark. (Democrat-Gazette) - The Arkansas & Missouri Railroad wants to be ready for a terror attack.

Police SWAT teams in Northwest Arkansas rehearsed Sunday for a worst-case scenario - responding to a terrorist strike on a railway.

Pretend-terrorists 'hijacked' an Arkansas & Missouri excursion train in Crawford County for the exercise. SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) teams from five police agencies sprung into action.

Organizers said the drill was the first of its kind in the nation.

Ron Sparks, police chief for the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad, said the exercise could be a basis for state and national, emergency-

response training.

"This is the first drill focused on the rail system," Sparks said. "Most of [the U.S. Department of ] Homeland Security's attention has been focused on the airline industry. We know railroads are a possible terrorist target, and we don't want to wait for another 9/11. We want a plan."

The Arkansas & Missouri Railroad carries hazardous materials and other freight as well as passengers on 140 miles of track in the state, Sparks said.

Major corporations like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Tyson Foods Inc. move cargo via train, he said.

Northwest Arkansas' rail system has draw bridges and a tunnel, features that pose challenges to emergency responders, according to



Tigerrails

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Benton County sheriff 's Capt. Tom Brewster.

The SWAT teams have been training for months for the exercise, Brewster said. They are from the Washington, Benton and Crawford counties' sheriff's offices and the Van Buren and Fayetteville police departments.



## Packers Run Over Panthers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) -- The Green Bay Packers dealt the Carolina Panthers a defeat now familiar to Super Bowl losers.

Ahman Green ran up, down and all over the defending NFC champion Panthers, scoring three touchdowns to lead Green Bay to a 24-14 victory Monday night. That made Carolina the sixth straight team to lose in the Super Bowl and drop its ensuing season opener.

"I was surprised at how well we ran the ball," quarterback Brett Favre said. "Our philosophy is we'll wear you down before you wear us down."

The Packers could have had that chance in January, if not for Favre's errant final pass on his first snap in overtime of the division-

al playoffs. The pass was intercepted and set up Philadelphia's winning field goal.

Carolina then beat the Eagles to advance to the first Super Bowl in team history.

But the Panthers looked nothing like that team on Monday night.

Unable to stop the run or run the ball - the two main principles that carried them all last season - the Panthers were out of sync from start to finish.

"We didn't get in a groove, and when we did get the opportunities, we didn't make the plays," said Stephen Davis, who ran for just 26 yards. "It's all of us. We've got to get better."

Green scored on touchdown runs of 3 and 6 yards and rushed for 119 yards against a Carolina defense



Getty Images

Green Bay's Ahman Green, left, celebrates with teammate Javon Walker after scoring a touchdown.

that only gave up four individual 100-yard rushing games last season. He did it with ease, giving no indication that this was the first time this year Green Bay's entire offensive unit was on the field together.

## Cubs Prevail, Half-Game From Wild Card

CHICAGO (AP) -- The Chicago Cubs made Frank Brooks' first major league start one to forget.

Sammy Sosa homered for the first time in more than two weeks as part of a five-run first inning, and Derrek Lee had three RBIs in Chicago's 7-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Monday night.

"It's tough to have a game plan because you don't know what you have," Lee said of facing a new pitcher. "It's basically go by feel. We just attacked him."

Moises Alou and Neifi Perez also homered for the Cubs, who pulled within a half-game of idle San Francisco in the NL wild-card race.

Brooks had been 0-0 with a 0.93 ERA in six relief appearances for the Pirates.



AP

Sammy Sosa of the Cubs belts a two-run homer in the first inning against the Pirates on Monday.

But he lasted only one inning as a starter, allowing four earned runs, three hits and a walk.

"Obviously, it wasn't that good of an outing when

you only go one inning," Brooks said. "I was expecting to go at least five innings, keep us in the game and give us a chance to win. But that's not how it went."

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## Sports Shorts

### Rangers Clear Dugout, Bullpen

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) -- Texas reliever Frank Francisco threw a chair at a fan in a lower box to the left of the Rangers' bullpen along the right-field line in the ninth inning against the Oakland Athletics on Monday night. The chair hit one man in the head, then bounced and clobbered a woman in the side of the head on her left temple. The Rangers sprinted out of their dugout with two outs in the top of the ninth and reliever Doug Brocail could be seen screaming at a male fan. Brocail had to be restrained by his teammates and bullpen coach Mark Connor, and others also had to be held back.

### 'Resident Evil' Number 1 at Box

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- The undead came alive once more over the weekend as "Resident Evil: Apocalypse" debuted at No. 1 at the box office, bringing in \$23.7 million. The sequel to 2002's "Resident Evil," based on a video game series about shooting apart shuffling, bio-poisoned zombie attackers, follows hits like last year's remake of "Dawn of the Dead" and the zombie art-house thriller "28 Days Later."

